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President Should Clarify Watergate

I have just read with deep concern the account in Saturday's Camera of the Watergate conspiracy, as described by one of the conspirators, Alfred C. Baldwin III. It seems to me that the cavalier attitude of the Republican Party, including its chief, Richard Nixon, that this episode is none of their affair, or a mere peccadillo, or just "dirty politics, as usual," or even a plot of the Democrats (Agnew), should fill everyone in America, of any party, with alarm.

✓ Armored cars, pistol-packing ex-FBI and CIA agents, the most sophisticated electronic equipment, including walkie-talkie and TV surveillance apparatus, the secrecy even among the conspirators, the easy cash, all add up to something very like the ruthless gangsterism that characterized Hitler's rise to power and destroyed all political parties in Germany, but one. Those guns described in the article were only to kill

people; those armored limosines were only to escape in unlawful flight. The money, electronic equipment, the planning were all dedicated to manipulating the American electorate, to defeating fair play and decency in democratic debate, to undermining the Constitution, which instructs us in the two-party system.

I do not like to question the integrity of the President of the U.S. If I must have him as President for another four years, as seems likely, I would like to believe in him, to have faith that even though I disagree with him he is an honorable man. I call on him to clarify now the responsibility in this conspiracy, to make public amends where possible, to take steps to assure the public that the Republican Party will never again indulge in these gestapo tactics, and to repudiate publicly all of the rascals involved.

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